

**Question for written answer E-005230/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Impact of current trade negotiations with Japan on the European transport industry

The European Union began negotiations on a free trade agreement with Japan in 2013. Since then, although there have been no official documents to support or deny the rumours, the word is that Japan is refusing to open its public markets to European companies, whereas European markets are entirely open to international companies. At this stage of the negotiations, what is the state of play as regards reciprocal openness between the two parties to the agreement?

The transport industry in Europe, and particularly the railway industry, is one of our economic champions. Yet the industry is at risk of being greatly weakened if competition with Japanese companies is not on an equal footing. The operational safety clause is one of the non-tariff barriers that is causing an imbalance in trade exchanges between Japan and the European Union. Will the current negotiations be including discussion of this clause?